

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 51

Introduced by Assembly Member Nunez

April 24, 2006

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 51—Relative to immigration reform.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 51, as introduced, Nunez. Immigration reform.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to reject all immigration reform efforts that seek to criminalize an individual because of his or her immigration status, to view immigration policy as only a border security issue, or that fail to recognize our common humanity and the values of our nation. The measure would memorialize the President and Congress to take a comprehensive, bipartisan, and well reasoned approach to immigration issues.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Immigrants are a vibrant, productive, and vital
- 2 part of California’s growing economy, diverse cultural fabric,
- 3 and changing demographics; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Immigrants and their children comprise nearly
- 5 one-half of California’s population and live and work in all 58
- 6 counties, most notably in the San Diego, Central Valley, Los
- 7 Angeles, and greater San Francisco Bay regions of the state; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Immigrants fuel California’s economy through
- 9 their labor and entrepreneurship, comprising approximately
- 10 one-third of California’s labor force and figuring prominently in

1 key economic sectors such as agriculture, construction,
2 manufacturing, and services; and

3 WHEREAS, A national debate is raging across the United
4 States focused on how to fix our broken immigration system and
5 this debate is tearing at the very core of our founding values; and

6 WHEREAS, This national discussion demands an intelligent,
7 comprehensive, and balanced approach to immigration
8 reform—one that recognizes that Americans want neither open
9 borders, nor closed borders, but that they want the President and
10 Congress of the United States to work together to enact
11 legislation that rewards work, reunites families, restores the rule
12 of law, reinforces our nation’s security, respects the rights of
13 United States born and immigrant workers, and redeems the
14 “American Dream”; and

15 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, in December 2005, the House of
16 Representatives passed the Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and
17 Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005 (H.R. 4437) that seeks
18 to criminalize an individual for his or her immigration status;
19 make any relative, coworker, parishioner, or friend who provides
20 assistance to an undocumented worker a criminal; deny due
21 process to undocumented immigrants; supersede United States
22 Supreme Court decisions; and infringe on an individual’s civil
23 rights. H.R. 4437 is not in our nation’s best interest and can only
24 be characterized as mean-spirited, short-sighted, and
25 anti-immigrant; and

26 WHEREAS, The United States Senate has taken preliminary
27 actions to pass an immigration reform measure that does not
28 advocate an enforcement only approach; however, this measure
29 still lacks key pertinent provisions. We applaud the efforts of
30 California’s Senators and others who support and are working
31 towards a comprehensive reform measure that is compassionate
32 to the immigrant, protects our nation’s economy, and safeguards
33 our national security while upholding the dignity of the United
34 States Constitution. We strongly encourage those dissenting
35 Senators to listen to their constituents and the millions of voices
36 throughout the United States and reexamine their position on this
37 extremely important issue; and

38 WHEREAS, A bipartisan, comprehensive workable
39 immigration reform package must be based on respect for human
40 rights; a path towards permanent residency and citizenship;

1 enforcement of border policies, protecting the wages and
2 working conditions of all workers, whether U.S. born or
3 immigrant workers; reunification of families; and the promotion
4 of citizenship and civic participation; now, therefore, be it

5 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
6 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California
7 respectfully memorializes the President and Congress of the
8 United States to reject all immigration reform efforts that seek to
9 criminalize an individual because of his or her immigration
10 status, to view immigration policy as only a border security issue,
11 or that fail to recognize our common humanity and the values of
12 our nation; and be it further

13 *Resolved,* That the President and the Congress of the United
14 States must take a comprehensive, bipartisan, and well reasoned
15 approach to solving our nation's broken immigration system,
16 using the principles set forth above; and be it further

17 *Resolved,* That we need to stand up to the extremists' voices
18 who wish to enact policies that will not solve our immigration
19 crisis, but will only serve to divide us; and be it further

20 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit
21 copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of
22 the United States, to the Speaker of the House of
23 Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to
24 each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress
25 of the United States.